

Cooper (A. A.) 11 East of Shaftesbury No. 69.
THE

Lord Chancellor's
S P E E C H

18,

IN THE
EXCHEQUER,

TO
BARON THURLAND

At the Taking of his

O A T H,

24 Jan. 1672.



London, Printed in the Year, 1672.

Lord Chancellors

SECRET

IN THE

EXCHEQUER

TO

BARON TREASURY

And of his

OATH



London, Printed in the Year, 1672

Mr. Serjeant Thurland,



He King of his Grace and Favor, hath made choice of you to be One of the Barons of the *Exchequer*. He designed to place you in a Court of more profit, though not of more Dignity; but your own Modesty and Vertue hath chosen this Court, where you thought you could serve the King best. And I could not omit to mention it here to your Honor, it being the greatest instance of a good Man, That he had rather be found serviceable then rich. His Majesty hath had large proof of your former Services; besides He takes you upon the credit of that Recommendation, that hath justly the best place with Him, I mean His Royal Brothers.

Some few things it is fit I should here mention to you, and leave with you as Admonitions, or rather Remembrances. In the first place, you are to maintain the *Kings Prerogative*; and let not the *Kings Prerogative*, and the *Law*, be two things with you. For the *Kings Prerogative* is *Law*, and the Principal Part of the *Law*; and therefore, in maintaining that, you maintain the *Law*. The Government of *England* is so excellently interwoven, that every part of the *Prerogative* hath a broad mixture of the Interest of the Subject; the ease and safety of the People being inseparable from the Greatness and Security of the Crown.

In the next place, let me advise you, that you acquaint your self with the *Revenue*; as also with the *Ancient Records, Precedents, and Practice* of this Court. For want of which knowledge, I have seen this Court a most excellent *Common Pleas*, when at the same time, I could not say so much for it as an *Exchequer*.

In the third place, let me recommend to you, so to manage the *Kings Justice and Revenue*, as the King may have

have most *Profit*, and the Subject least *Vexation*. Raking for old Debts; the number of Informations; Projects upon Concealments: I could not find in the Eleven years experience I have had in this Court, ever to advantage the Crown. But such proceedings have for the most part delivered up the Kings good Subjects into the hands of the worst of men.

There is another thing I have observed in this Court, that I shall mind you of, which is, When the Court hearkens too much to the *Clerks* and *Officers* of it; and are too apt to send out *Process*, when the Money may be raised by otherways more easie to the People. I do not say, That the Kings duty should be lost, or that the strictest course should not be taken, rather then that be; But when you consider, how much the *Officers* of this Court, and the *Under-Sheriffs*, get by *Process* upon small Sums, more then the Kings duty comes to; and upon what sort of People this falls, to wit, the *Farmer*, *Husbandman*, and *Clothier* in the Countrey, that is generally the *Collector*, *Constable*, and *Tubbingman*; and so disturbs the industrious part of the Nation, you will think it fit to make that the last way, when no other will serve.

Give me leave also to mind you of one thing more, which is in your Oath, That the Kings needs ye shall speed before all other: That is, the business of the Revenue of the Crown you are to dispatch before all other, and not turn your Court into a Court of Common Pleas; and let that juggle out what you were constituted for.

In the last place, let me conclude with what concerns all my *Lords*, the *Judges*, as well as you, let me recommend to you the *Port* and way of living suitable to the dignity of your place, and what the King allows you. There is not any thing gains more Reputation and Respect to the Government, then that doth. And let me tell you, *Magistrates* as well as *Merchants*, are supported by Reputation.

E. I. N. T. S.

